

May 2008

Measles in Childcare Facilities Fact Sheet

There is currently an outbreak of measles in portions of Arizona. This information is designed to help you and your facility to be prepared in the event that the one of the children (or staff) from your facility are diagnosed with measles.

How Can I Prepare?

The best thing that you can do to prepare is to make sure that all of the children in your facility are up to date with their vaccinations before they enroll. Parents should provide proof of up-to-date vaccinations before enrolling. You should also make sure that all of your staff has had their vaccinations, including childhood vaccinations. This will prevent staffing problems that can occur if one of the kids at your facility is diagnosed with measles.

What if One of Our Children or Staff are Diagnosed with Measles?

Children

Once you have a suspect case of measles at your facility, all children that cannot demonstrate that they have had the vaccine must be excluded from your facility for 21 days. These children should be encouraged to get vaccinated for measles before they return. If a child has received one dose of MMR vaccine, they should get a second MMR (if it has been 28 days since their first dose), but they do not need to be excluded.

Staff

Once you have a suspect case of measles in your facility, all staff that cannot demonstrate they have had at least one dose of vaccine must be excluded from your facility for 21 days unless they are able to obtain proof of immunity. Staff older than 51 years could return to work if they get a "titer" (blood test) and vaccine at the same time, while waiting for the results of the blood test. If the test is negative, those staff members will again need to be excluded for the rest of the 21 days. Staff younger than 51 are encouraged to accept a dose of vaccine as well as getting a blood test done. If the blood test is positive for measles immunity, they can return to work immediately. Getting an MMR vaccine does not pose additional risks to someone who is already immune to measles.

How Do I Know if my Staff has Immunity for Measles?

Staff are considered immune if they have documentation of one dose of measles vaccine; **or** a positive measles serology (blood) test; **or** documentation of physician-diagnosed measles.

Reporting

Cases of measles must be immediately reported to your local health department. Your local health department http://azdhs.gov/phs/local_health/health_depts.htm can help you with specific recommendations that will help to control the spread of the disease.